ITS Technical Bulletin

MAINFRAME SECURITY SOFTWARE PRODUCT—ACF2 TO RACF CONVERSION, TESTING, AND IMPLEMENTATION

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Background

The State of Utah has used the ACF2 (non-IBM) mainframe security software since 1981. It has become increasingly difficult for third-party software vendors to stay current with the IBM Mainframe Operating System. This has caused delays in implementing mainframe features that are of significant potential value to users of the mainframe systems.

To eliminate this problem, DAS/ITS made a decision in September 2000 to discontinue the use of ACF2 (now Computer Associates' CA-ACF2) and replace it with RACF, which is IBM's mainframe data security product. This change will be effective on all DAS/ITS mainframe computers on August 18, 2001.

Scope

The change from ACF2 to RACF will affect:

- all mainframe DAS/ITS CPU Test and Production environments;
- all mainframe Security Services;
- all mainframe MVS on-line and batch job users (Approximately 14,000); and,
- all mainframe USS (Unix System Services) users.

Expected Impact

After a comparative analysis, DAS / ITS found that RACF will provide substantially the same control and security services previously provided by CA-ACF2, while eliminating the difficulties and delays associated with using a non-IBM mainframe security product.

Action Required by Agency Personnel

Most of the work of converting the existing CA-ACF2 database will be done by DAS/ITS staff using conversion software furnished by IBM for that purpose. Fine-tuning will be done by the DAS/ ITS Data Security staff where possible. Customers having administrative staff may choose to do their own fine-tuning to fit their specific agency needs.

Agency Security Administrators will have to become familiar with the way that RACF works and will have to learn RACF operational commands.

Training

The DAS/ITS Data Security staff conducted half-day customer training sessions in January, March, April, and May 2001. In June 2001 four half-day training sessions for Agency Security Administrators will be conducted by an IBM consultant in the DAS/ITS Training Center. Additional customer training will be provided by DAS/ITS staff in July, August, September, and October 2001, and as needed on an on-going basis.

Testing

The ACF2 mainframe computing environment will no longer exist after the implementation of RACF.

A RACF test environment is running on CPU7 for the purpose of customer testing. Any application software not successfully tested in the RACF mainframe computing environment prior to the implementation of RACF may not operate after RACF is implemented on August 18, 2001. Customer agencies are responsible for testing their applications.

In specific cases where the CPU7 test environment cannot contain all of the elements required to test an application, every effort will be made by DAS/ITS to provide time for customer testing following successful system testing on production CPUs. The best time for this is likely to be after system testing with all CPUs is done on June 24, 2001. Agencies wanting to test on June 24th should designate a contact person and send that person's name and telephone number, etc., to Jerry McLall, the RACF Project Coordinator. Jerry's GroupWise email address is jmclall@das.state.ut.us and office telephone number is 538-3373.

All testing that can possibly be done in the CPU7-only environment should be done there. Questions about testing in the CPU7-only environment can be directed to Jerry McLall, who will provide the information you need.

See Attachment-1: *Testing in the State of Utah RACF Test Environment*, which was distributed generally on April 23, 2001.

Current Schedule of Activity

The current schedule of RACF-related activities for the next three months is listed on Attachment-2: *Dry Run and Production Implementation Dates.*